

CrossRoads Baptist Church
October 29, 2006 10:00 am
Matthew 22:37-39

“What More Than Loving God”

Is there anything after “loving God?” Anything on that level of a command from God?

There is!! Matthew 22: 39 "The second [commandment] is like it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." The second commandment is like the first in that it is of the same nature and character. When you rightly love God, you will rightly love people

I. There is a definite decision you make.

Just like the first commandment, love is a definite decision you must make. It is a command to love your neighbor as yourself.

II. There is a precious pattern you follow.

This is not a command but an assumption. Its not that we are to learn how to love ourselves, but instead its something that is assumed we know.

Now Jesus says, I start with this self-love. This is what I know about you. This is common to all people. You don't have to learn it. It comes with your humanity.

There are some things I know about myself:

1. I've liked myself since the first time I meet me
2. I take care of myself
3. I understand myself – not perfect, easy to sin
4. I give myself a break – say things, think things, do things
5. I don't share bad stuff about myself
6. I need someone to love me, accept me, challenge me.

7. I love myself without an agenda.

We are all very concerned with our comfort and meeting our own needs. But are we as concerned with the comforts and needs of others? When you are hungry, you feed yourself, but when someone else is hungry, do you take care of them with the same concern? When you are uncomfortable, you find comfort. Do you have the same feeling for someone else who is in of comfort? We need to care about others the same way we care about ourselves.

We need to love on another like we want to be loved. If you want someone to be gracious to you, then you be gracious to them. If you want people to easily forgive you for the log in your eye, then you forgive them quickly for the splinter in their eye. If you want people to talk to you before they talk about you, then you talk to them first before you talk to others.

Matthew 7:11 (Message) Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get.

NLT – “Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

III. There is a magnificent message you give.

A. The message is that Christianity is not about you

"Love your neighbor as yourself," is a very radical command. What I mean by "radical" is this: it cuts to the root of our sinfulness and exposes it and, by God's grace, severs it. The root of our sinfulness is the desire for our own happiness apart from God and apart from the happiness of others in God.

Rick Warren is right in his book “*The Purpose Driven Life*” is that its not about me, but Him.

B. The message is that Christianity is simple.

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
Christianity is not complicated. You simply love God and men with your entire being. If you love God, you'll do what He commands, and if you love men, you'll meet their needs. Verse 40 explains that these two commandments are behind all the other commandments in the Old Testament. If you love God with all your being and love everyone as you love yourself, you don't need any more rules. All the other commandments are simply an extension or practical application of those two commandments.

C. The message is that Christianity is real in you.

John 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

If this is the greatest commandment, then not to obey it would be the greatest sin wouldn't it.

Revelation 2: 4 "Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

And equally is when we don't love one another.